BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOTICE – INDICATORS OF THE AMOUNT, DISTRIBUTION AND ATTRIBUTES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT REQUIRED FOR THE WINTER SURVIVAL OF UNGULATE SPECIES IN THE NORTH COAST TIMBER SUPPLY AREA

This notice is given under the authority of section 7(2) of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 14/04*)* and 9(3) of the *Woodlot Planning and Practices Regulation* (B.C. Reg. 21/04).

The following notice includes indicators of the amount, distribution and attributes of wildlife habitat required for the winter survival of the ungulate species outlined in Schedule 1.

This notice applies as specified within the North Coast Timber Supply Area.

Schedule 1

North Coast Timber Supply Area

Ungulate Species:
Mountain Goat and Moose

Amount:
1) Goat:
A maximum of 187,483 ha with no impact to the timber harvesting landbase.

2) Moose:
A maximum of 36, 445 ha with no timber supply impact.

Distribution:
The amount of habitat referenced above must be distributed to provide:

- coverage of winter range within the noncontributing land base;
- coverage of winter range habitat within the timber harvesting land base provided that no impact to timber supply occurs.

1) Mountain Goat

- Mountain Goat winter range located in habitat types at the elevation and on slope aspects typical of ungulate winter ranges for Mountain Goat in the North Coast TSA according to the attributes identified below
- Winter range in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from alpine ridges to forested sites adjacent to low elevation riparian communities and tide water.

1) Moose

- Moose winter range located in forest types at the elevation and on slope aspects typical of ungulate winter ranges for Moose in the North Coast TSA according to the attributes below.
- Winter range in low elevation riparian areas, especially along dynamic riverine systems where plant communities are perpetuated by continuous and predictable fluvial disturbances;
- Winter range in basins that are large, and include a wide valley bottom have a higher potential for moose winter concentration;
- Winter range in the bottom of avalanche tracts and transient shrub communities that exist temporarily within a landscape due to noncontinuous and random disturbances such as fire or forest harvesting.

Attributes:

I) Mountain Goats

The following are general winter range habitat attributes for North Coast mountain goats based on best available information:

a) escape terrain being defined as rocky outcrops, cliffs or bluffs with slopes of 45^0 to 60^0, and ungulate winter range polygons extending up to 400 meters from escape terrain;
b) aspects within 115^0 to 280^0 azimuth;
c) a range of habitats varying from alpine ridges to forested sites adjacent to tide water to fulfil requirements for food, accessibility and reduce mobility costs associated with local weather and snow conditions;
d) good connectivity to summer range;
e) in forested sites, canopy old-growth cover between 60-80% to effectively intercept snow and make understory vegetation and arboreal lichen litterfall available and accessible to mountain goats;
f) refuge that provides for non-threatening human encounters, both from the ground and from the air in occupied winter range.

II) Moose

The following are general winter range habitat attributes for North Coast moose based on best available information:

a) primarily low elevation riparian communities, especially along dynamic riverine systems where much of the riparian vegetation is in a sub-climax seral stage;
b) preferred winter food species being willow, cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, highbush cranberry, Vaccinium spp., and cedar;
c) sufficient forest cover (minimum of 65 % crown closure) to provide for snow interception where snow depths begin to restrict moose mobility (65 cm +);
d) sufficient food availability within 80 meters of security cover;
e) mosaic of age classes, stand types and openings that provide for near optimum balance of forage, shelter/bedding, screening, and thermoregulation in late winter;

f) in deciduous complexes, mature and old conifer clusters that can provide for shelter and screening.